

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Vegetation Response Monitoring in Woody Invasive Removal Sites

Proposal Number: 1232

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: Private

County: Grand

Project Manager: Kara Dohrenwend

PM Phone: 4356133717

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Miscellaneous

Proposed Start Date: 07/01/2009

Project Location: Grand and San Juan counties –the Dolores River and the Colorado River from the Colorado state line to the Potash Plant.

Project Description: Continue to monitor and report on the success/failure of tamarisk and large woody invasive removal projects in the Moab area in at least 30 sites where removal activities have occurred during the past decade.

Description of Problem/Need: Interest in active management of large woody invasives on public and private land has increased dramatically over the past few years. While removal activities increase, coordinated efforts to evaluate the efficacy of various removal methods over time are necessary to inform management choices. Currently, many large scale removal projects are often designed based on qualitative assessments of other project success or failure. To date there has been little coordinated effort to objectively evaluate tamarisk removal and revegetation methods. Most knowledge driving project decisions, especially in areas north of Arizona and New Mexico, is largely anecdotal. Other monitoring papers have compared vegetation response in such widely dispersed sites (across bioregions) that its applicability to tamarisk and Russian olive behavior in Utah is debatable

The coordinated monitoring of projects in the Moab area will provide information that can be used to help inform future decisions concerning removal method, revegetation needs, and acceptable project costs (both up front and long term) for large scale woody invasive removal work throughout Utah.

This project has been underway for two years and has commitment by both BLM and RRR for the long term. Utah PCD funding would enhance the ability of the partners to coordinate efforts, and collect data in a timely and effective fashion in 2009/10. While less of a on the ground effort than most Utah PCD projects, the quantity of projects being funded by Utah PCD for large scale woody invasives suggests coordinated monitoring with a standardized and transferable template is appropriate for Utah PCD support.

Objectives: The project's primary objective is to refine a repeatable and transferable standardized method to measure the impact of and level of success of tamarisk and large woody invasive removal efforts. A longer term objective is to use this information to determine best management practices for large scale woody invasives, and provide a metric for measuring project success throughout Utah.

While this is not an on the ground project as is typically funded through Utah PCD, this project specifically targets WRI funded projects in this region. In addition, the project focuses on tamarisk and other woody invasive removal and subsequent revegetation work done during the past 8 years to help provide a longer range view of project success than is generally available.

Most large scale woody invasive removal and revegetation projects are still experimental, and based on qualitative and anecdotal information. This monitoring project is collecting information from a wide range of treatment areas and methods and provides some objective measures of success that are currently unavailable. So much work is being done in this region of Utah on tamarisk removal and revegetation that project managers from Colorado and other Utah locations are looking for advice and suggestions from land managers in this region, especially in relation to the activity of the tamarisk leaf beetle. Coordinated monitoring of many projects, including non WRI projects, will improve future WRI projects throughout the state by ensuring there is some quantitative and objective measure of success to reference.

The funding request is for one year (or more, if possible) of a minimum 5 year long project that is already underway.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: SE Utah Tamarisk Partnership
BLM fire
TNC Colorado River Corridor work
FFSL CWPP in Moab and Castle Valley areas
The Colorado River corridor woody invasive removal monitoring project advances the objectives set forth in the SEUTP's Woody Invasive Species Management Plan and the Utah Strategic Tamarisk Management Plan. The SEUTP plan has been endorsed by the following partners: Tamarisk Coalition, Town of Castle Valley, San Juan County Commission, San Juan Conservation District, San Juan Cooperative Weed Management Area, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Transportation, Rim to Rim Restoration, Jennifer Speers, Castleland Resources Conservation and Development Council, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, City of Moab, Utah State Parks, Red River Canoe, Bureau of Land Management, Red Rock Forests, Grand Canyon Trust, Grand County, and Living Rivers.

Potential Risks: Potential risks to adjacent resources of improvement would be minimal. Risks if project were not to occur would include poor future planning efforts due to lack of quantitative information to support management decisions.

Proposed Methods: Winter 2008/09 and Spring 2009: refine data collection procedures by evaluating data collected in 2008 with the assistance of members of the USGS, TNC and BLM and additional site visits. Summer/Fall 2009: collect data at the 14 existing survey sites, with the refined methods, and add 16 more sites to the project. Fall/Winter 2009/10: summarize data and evaluate based on the two and three year collections. Determine best plan for monitoring in 2010 and beyond. Generate initial report based on three years of monitoring in this region.
As part of an ongoing process this will mark the mid point of the overall project. Deliverables at the project phase completion date will include a preliminary summary of data and a transferable monitoring protocol for land managers involved in large woody invasive

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removal throughout the state.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1232.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 12/02/2008

**Proposed
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: The work in 2009/10 is part of a multi year plan for evaluating work throughout the Moab region. By 2012 there should be enough data collected to determine best management practices for large scale woody invasive removal and native plant revegetation that is based on a minimum of 30 (and ideally 50) monitoring sites. See attachment for more details. Detailed protocols and methods are available upon request.

Grazing Management: None applicable

SPECIES BENEFITING

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
DWR	0
Private	0
BLM	0
TNC	0
Total	0

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Rim to Rim	\$17,000.00		\$0.00
DNR Watershed (FY10)	\$52,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$69,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Personal Services	Planning and coordination	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00
Materials and Supplies		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Equipment Purchases		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Totals		\$52,000.00	\$12,000.00